



PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Toshiyuki KANAI et al.

Application No.: 10/569,793

Filed: February 27, 2006

For: STAPLE FORMING AND DRIVING
MACHINE

Confirmation No.: 6625

Group Art Unit: 3721

Examiner: Michelle Lopez

Commissioner for Patents
Customer Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the above-identified Applicants cite the patents as shown on the enclosed PTO-1449, which may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy of the foreign patent listed on the attached Form PTO 1449 is provided.

This reference was cited by the Examiner in a related international application pending before the Japanese Patent Office. The relevance of the references may be ascertained by the English translation of the Abstract.

Applicants respectfully request that these items be considered by the Examiner, and that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of these references by initialing and returning copies of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the next official action.

While this Information Disclosure Statement may be “material” pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other


information referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention or otherwise material to the patentability of this invention as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b) exists.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b); before the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. §1.114. No fee is believed to be due for this submission. If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems a fee is due, please charge this fee and any other required fees to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 27, 2007

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